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## NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS

IN CHARGE OF

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**FEEDING THE BABY.**—In a quotation in a paper on obstetrics in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, it is stated that in a study of 1500 milk station babies for all the bottle babies simple dilutions of whole milk were used. In feeding the healthy, artificially fed infant they began with a one in three mixture. Seldom was it necessary to prescribe a more dilute mixture. The quantity at each feeding was increased one ounce every fourth week. The strength of the mixture was increased as the weight and the symptoms indicated. One and one-half ounces per pound of body weight in twenty-four hours, divided to make the proper amount at each feeding, is the quantity advised.

**CHILDREN'S DIET.**—A writer in the *New York Medical Journal* says the best diet for a neurotic child, or any child, is a plentiful supply of such cereal food as is prepared from the whole grain, supplemented by an abundance of fruit, especially the banana. Much of the food given to children has been deprived of its indigestible parts, the husks of fibre and cellulose, the child eats too much meat, eggs and milk to get enough bulk.

**GLUCOSE IN SHOCK.**—A writer in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences* advocates the administration of a freshly prepared, sterilized glucose solution after every operation in which there is reason to fear an unusual amount of post-anaesthetic shock. The method is described.

**TREATMENT OF EDEMA.**—A foreign medical journal recommends that edematous parts be wrapped in compresses wet with 2-5 per cent salt solution, over this is placed a layer of cotton and the whole bandaged. Next day the dressings are saturated with fluid, which may soak through sheets and mattress. The dressing is renewed daily and often results in the disappearance of edema intractable to other methods. The patient is kept on a dry diet.

**THE GRIPPE.**—A German medical journal says that gripe and influenza are distinct morbid entities. Influenza swept across Europe in three great epidemic waves in the one hundred and ten years ending with 1900. Gripe is a mixed infection and does not display the contagiousness of influenza, although numerous cases develop about the same time. The long persistence of a temperature rather below normal suggests gripe.

**RUBBER GLOVES AND THE TACTILE SENSE.**—*The Journal of the American Medical Association* reports observations on six blind pupils, who read entirely with their fingers. These were furnished with rubber gloves for the test. The average time in which the pupils could read the text with bare hands was forty-eight seconds, with well fitting rubber gloves of medium weight, seventy seconds. When the hands were oiled before the gloves were put on, the time was sixty-eight seconds; when the hands were wet instead of oiled, sixty-five seconds. With loose, ill-fitting gloves, the time was increased to eighty-six seconds.

**BOILED MILK.**—*The American Journal of Diseases of Children* states that milk heated to the boiling temperature, or thereabouts, is an inadequate food. Rats fed on it did not thrive, nor reproduce their kind. Chemical changes are caused by boiling. The value of pasteurized milk as a food depends upon the temperature to which it is heated during the process. Reaching the boiling point vitiates it.

**CAUSE OF ITCHING.**—A German medical journal states that recent research has explained the mechanism of itching. It results from irritation of the free nerve terminations in the blood capillaries in the papillary layer. As skin forms over an ulcer, or granulations, the horny layer presses on the nerve terminations and itching persists until the pressure of the capillaries and the horny layer reaches a balance. If a blister forms, itching ceases. Salicylic acid, soaps, etc., soften the epidermis and so reduce the pressure on the tissues beneath, lessening the itching.

**TYPHOID DEAFNESS.**—*The Journal of the American Medical Association* in a synopsis of an article in a foreign journal says that deafness occurs in a certain per cent of cases of typhoid. In the cases reported, the deafness was bilateral. In a few cases there was otitis media, with and without perforation. The deafness developed usually in the second, third or fourth week, but did occur as late as the seventh. It subsided completely in time, as a rule, but in some cases left permanent deafness.

**DANGERS OF SACCHARINE.**—*The Medical Record* sounds a warning against the indiscriminate use of saccharine as a substitute for sugar. While the latter is a food, saccharine is only a chemical substance which happens to have for one of its properties an extremely sweet taste. It is a coal tar derivative. It has been thought to be a predisposing cause of certain forms of epithelioma. It is a chronic irritant to the gastrointestinal tract, particularly to the stomach. Taken internally over long periods, or in excessive doses, it causes various digestive disturbances, among which are hyperchlorhydria and nausea.

Any dose over five grains is unsafe. It is recommended that it should be issued to diabetics with the same caution and admonitions as accompany the giving of any other powerful medicine.

**CONVALESCENT SERUM IN MEASLES.**—An Italian medical journal reports the use of the blood serum of patients convalescent from measles in the treatment of cases in the acute stage of the disease. Daily injections of from 5 to 20 cubic centimeters were given. The mixed serum from several convalescents produced, apparently, better results than that obtained from one individual. The good effects attributed to this treatment are the lowering of the temperature during the course of the disease, its shortening and the absence of complications. Convalescent serum has been used for some time in scarlet fever, but not before in measles.

**WORK FOR THE BLIND.**—The *Medical Record* says the New York State Commission for the Blind has issued a list of blind persons engaged in various trades and occupations, including basket makers, broom makers, chair caners, dictaphone operators, singers, rug makers, masseurs, piano tuners, printers, etc. This list will be supplied on application to the Commission, 105 West 40 Street, New York.

**PROTECTION OF VACCINATION PUSTULE.**—*The Journal of the American Medical Association*, quoting from a French contemporary, says that in vaccinating, an oblong of adhesive plaster is used with the adhesive substance on both sides covered with gauze. Three large round holes are cut in a row in the oblong, leaving only a narrow margin like a frame. The gauze is stripped from one side and this side is applied to the arm. Then the gauze is turned back from the other side, the vaccination is done through the holes and the gauze is replaced.

**CALCIUM CHLORIDE IN NIGHT SWEATS.**—A German writer extols the use of calcium chloride in preventing night sweats. He states that patients who used to be dripping, were found at the morning visit dry and cheerful. He believes one element is the tranquilizing effect on the nervous system, as night sweats are the result of disturbance of vasomotor control, from the influence of the products of the bacteria.

**CARE OF THE UMBILICUS.**—In the last three years, among five thousand children born at the Maternity Hospital at Basel, there has not been a death from infection of the umbilicus. The method relied upon was cutting the cord short and applying Balsam of Peru.